



FEMA

NEWS RELEASE STATE/FEDERAL DISASTER FIELD OFFICE JOINT INFORMATION CENTER



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DISASTER RECOVERY CENTERS (DRCs) CONTINUE TO OPEN TO ASSIST VICTIMS OF OCTOBER FLOODING.

EVERETT, WA—Officials from the State of Washington and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will open a third set of disaster recovery centers (DRCs) to assist individuals who suffered damage from the October 15-23 storms and flooding. The centers will be open in Concrete, Bellingham and Shelton at the following locations on the days listed. **Hours of all DRCs are 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.** Centers in Bremerton and Aberdeen are scheduled to open in the near future. Anyone affected by the October storms may visit any open DRC for assistance.

The centers will be located at:

Skagit County Upriver Services Office

45770 Main St.

Concrete, WA 98237

- Wednesday, Nov. 19
- Thursday, Nov. 20
- Wednesday, Nov. 26

District 24 Fire House

4142 Britton Loop Rd

Bellingham, WA 98226

- Friday, Nov. 21
- Saturday, Nov. 22
- Friday, Nov. 28
- Saturday, Nov. 29

Mason County EOC

410 W. Business Park Dr.

Shelton, WA 98584

- Friday, Nov. 21
- Saturday, Nov. 22

The centers will be staffed with specialists to answer questions and provide recovery information and written materials about various assistance programs available to homeowners, renters and non-agricultural business owners.

Some disaster programs include housing assistance and other needs assistance programs, and low interest disaster loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) for individuals and non-agricultural businesses of all sizes. These are three of several planned recovery centers to serve those affected by the October storms.

Individuals who have been affected by the disaster are urged to call FEMA's toll-free number at 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) before visiting a DRC to simplify and speed up the registration process. Hearing and speech impaired individuals may call TTY at 1-800-462-7585.

On March 1, 2003, FEMA became part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. FEMA's continuing mission within the new department is to lead the effort to prepare the nation for all hazards and effectively manage federal response and recovery efforts following any national incident. FEMA also initiates proactive mitigation activities, trains first responders, and manages the National Flood Insurance Program and the U.S. Fire Administration.

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Note to Editors: Disaster information is available on FEMA's World Wide Web at <http://www.fema.gov> or the Washington Emergency Management Division at <http://emd.wa.gov>.